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AN HONEST LETETR

TO A DOUBTFULL *FRIEND*,

ABOUT

The rifling of the Twentieth *part of his Eſtate.*

Printed at *York* by *Stephen Bulkley*, 1642.

By ſpeciall Command.

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By Speciall Commaund.

TO HIS MUCH ESTEEMED FRIEND and Kinſman Sir *H. W.* at his Houſe in *Weſtminſter.*

THe indiſpoſition of my body hath confined me to my Chamber, we muſt now therefore diſcourſe by letters: your Petition for peace I ſee is not ſo happy as to find ſucceſſe in Parliament, at which while I wondred I began to conſider the reaſons, which are diverſe as the perſons oppoſing it, Therefore you muſt firſt obſerve the oppoſers, and then the reaſons will be evident. It is not fit the Houſes of Parliament ſhould deny the obedient Citizens of London any thing, for that may be diſtaſtfull to the City; not yet grant the requeſt of the Petition, for that may be deſtructive to the Profit of many Members of both Houſes, and to ſome even of the City it ſelfe. It was therefore wiſely done of my abortive Lord Major and his Zealous Sectaries to attempt the ſtrangling of it in the birth, by Committing ſome that were active about it; their Reaſons are Reformation of Religion, that is, abolithing the Booke of Common-prayer as Popiſh, though juſtified by the *Compoſers Martyrdome* under the Popiſh tyranny, but that will make way for their new doctrines and extemporary bablings; next the diſſolving of Biſhopricks and Deanries will repay the mony lent upon the publique faith, for advancing the *Lords warr*, (for ſo they miſcall Treaſon) and concluſe, that being *the Lords debt*, it is fitteſt to be paid out of the Lords inheritance: then Biſhops being eradicated Elders may grow up and flouriſh as in *Scotland* dayes. And 'tis Conſiderable, that the eſtates of

Malignants will be just rewards for the godly laborers in this harvest, all which will be lost by a beggerly accommodation.

Touching the Houses of Parliament, which consists of about 140 Lords, and 500 Commoners, of which not a fifth part do attend in their severall Houses, some being voted out, others committed for not conforming their Consciences to the sense of the Houses and very many, disliking the proceedings and tumults, left the House and repained to the King, with whom a greater part I am sure is, then attend both Houses, being come to preserve their oathes of Allegiance which is personall to the King.

Take (Sir) but a view of such as sit and act the businesse in the Houses of Parliament, observe who among them have Commands and places of profit in and about this warre; then examine their small estate, with their great debt and charge; the rich profit of their command with their poor Revenew. You may find the Earles of *Northumberland*, *Pembrook*, *Rutland*, *Salisbury*, *Holland*, sitting in the Lords House; and in the House of Commons Sir *Edward Hales*, Sir *George Stanehouse*, Sir *Alexander Denton* M. *Edw. Waller*, M. *Maynard*, M. *Thomas Cooke*, Sir *Thomas Hutchinson*, M. *Phillips*, M. *Ellis*, and others, all voting for Peace, to preserve the Estates they have, not find them in the list of Officers to get maintenance. All men know my misled Lord of *Essex* lost the best of his estate in lost *Ireland*, and his whole debt, and great Accompt to his Nephew *Shirley* is to be paid out of a small Remainder; hath not my Lord of *Warwick* sould all he can, but yet his creditors take new promises for old debts, though he be responsall for 400000 pound *grant per accompt*? are the Lords of *Peterborough*, *Stamford*, *Say*, and *Brook*, necessitous? their debts and charges prelling? then their commands are double; both horse and foot. The Lords *Hastings*, *Rachford*, *Wharton* Sr. *John Mandevill*, *Peelding*, *Gray* of *Grooby*, Sir *Hugh Chamley*, Sir *Samuell Luke*, Sr *John Merick*, M. *Nathaniell Fines*, M. *Martin*. Master *Wingate*, M. *Walton*, M. *Cromwell*, Colonell *Venne*, M. *John More*, and others, are men whose credit (as appears by

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Scriveners bookes) is as great as their estates, not invited to Commands by the profit of their places, but by their Conscientious zeale to the Cause; others of the Houses (least any water should run beside their Mill) preferre their Sonnes, Brothers, and neere friends, to places and imployments of profit about this warre, as M. *Pym* is sonne *Alexander*, Sir *H. Mildemay* his brother *Anthony*, my Lord *Say* his sonne, *John*, and others other friends, while some men of the House have confest that the pay made them undertake the cause; and which of all these, save Sir *John Merick*, knowes ought of his place but the profit? Nay many of them for the better service fight by their Lieutenants, as they pay debts by their sureties, and how many of them, save two or three which are taken prisoners, received a wound, or struck one blow in the late battells of *Edge* and *Braunceford*, what hopes then these men will give their Votes and 12 or 1500 l *per ann.* for a barren peace? Will my Lord Major subscribe a Petition that shall take away his toll, 12d for passes out of *London*? or Colonell *Manwaring*, the crased Mercer, Captain *Base* the Lace-man, Captain *Mason*, the Button-maker, Captain *Withers* the Pewterer, Captain *Capote* the Broaker, Captain *Lee* the *Kintner*, with the Cunnyskin Captain in *Southwarke*, and divers other Debt-compounding-Citizens their pay and protections against Creditors, and leave themselves nought but a Goale to live in? What can you hope for by your Petition that these men, and the like, can hinder?

Now surveigh the Popish and beggerly Lords and Cavaliers for and about the King, as the Duke of *Richmond*, the Marquesse *Hartford*, Earles of *Cumberland*, *Darby*, *Lindsey*, *Bath*, *Dorset*, *Bridgewater*, *Danby*, *Leicester*, *Devonshire*, *Northampton*, *Chesterfield*, *Bristoll*, *Westmerland*, *Barkeshire*, *Newcastle*, *Carnarvon*, *Kingston* and *Thanet*. The Lords *Mowbray*, *Mountague* of *Boughton*, *Duinecourt*, *Shandoys*, *Spencer*, *Gray*, *Mohume*, *Dunsmore*, *Newarke*, *Seymore*, *Capell*, and others. Then of the House of Commons, Sir *Christop. Hatton*, Sr. *Jarvas Clifton*, S. *Guy Palmes*, S. *James Thin*, M. *John Coventry*, M. *Henry* and M. *John Bellasey*, Sir *Tho: Fanshaw*, Sir *Richard*

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Lenthall, Sir Thomas Dunby, Sir Tob. Packington, Sir Ric. Lee, Sir Charles le Grosse, Mast. Carlisle, Mast. Holborne, Mr. Bridgeman, Mr Chadwell, Sir John Strangeways & his son, M. John Digby, Sr Edw. Darring, Sr Will. Widdrington, M. Vemble, Baron of Kinnerton, M. Rogers, M. Newport, Sir Edw. Alford, M. Whitmore, Mr Chitchley, M. Edgcombe, M. Tho. Fanshaw, M. Crook, M. Wenall, M. Sutton, Sr Will. Ogle, Sr Will. Poole, & one hundred more then my paper will hold, men of understanding and known integrity, & which of all these whose age and health would permit, adventured not their lives and estates in this warr with the King. Now let's examinine their Religion, and you shall find them daily at Sermons and service with the King, hearing and practising the same Protestant Religion and Lithergy, that saved our Father, and hath been in our Church ever since the Reformation, and which we have vowed by the late Protestation to maintaine, then (no doubt) neither the King nor they are likely to bring in Popery, nor be Separatists.

That they are men of Estates the Counties that elected them (if not the Kingdom) knowes, and which of them hath any profit by the warr? which of them goes not himselfe and servants to the warr at his owne charge? Nay, which of them hath not otherwise in a large manner contributed to the maintenance of the Kings Army, and that without any Command of any Ordinance, even even against the Declaration of the Houses? what would they and others then have done, had an Order of the House directed it as on the other side? By this then you see they are neither Popishly nor beggerly, Nor can have any reward or hopes of repaire out of the estate of the adverse party.

But they would induce arbitrary government? I pray what proofe is there of that? what one act hath the King done since the Commence of the Parliament that favoures of arbitrary justice? whom hath he distrained, committed, or turned out of the Towne for not lending? nay what hath he not done to assure us the contrary? Reade His Declarations, observe his regall promises and protestations, and then tell

tell me what Christian (that hath charity) or what man (that would be believed) will not believe him; Hath he not regulated the Councell-Table, damned the Ship-writs, suppressed the high Commission and Marshall-Court: Nay, hath he not left all things to be tried by strict proceedings of Law?

Whom can arbitrary justice more prejudice, then those now about and with the King, the Rich and wealthy men? surely then they will not be a meanes to induce that law that shall undoe, & inslave them, their children, families and estates. Yet must we lend money, send horses, and raise Armies against these popish, and beggarly Cavaliers, Foolish not to say worse, the King, that wrote Treason, and breach of our late protestation; which is to defend His Majesty, yet was the King's Person in danger at *Edge-Hill* Battle, when the undistinguishing shott tooke some persons even about the King: but God did then, and I hope always will cover His head in the day of Battell.

Upon these Considerations, Sir I cannot believe or feare the endangerment of Popery or arbitrary Justice, nor thinke my conscience, person, or estate, tyed by the necessitous Ordinance of both Houses (for want of an act of Parliament) to pay or lend the twentieth part of my estate (which you know may come to three or foure hundred pound) be taken to support a warre, wherein the Person of the King (which God forbid) may be hurt.

I am sure that while God promised the Scepter to *Juda*, he put the Law-giver betweene his feet, to let us know, That the legislative power is neither above, nor without the King. And I know the King by His Writs, doth call them to advise with him, not to resolve without him. I will therefore keepe my hands from giving, and so preserve my conscience; I will fast bolt my doores, and so preserve my person and estate, untill a stronger than I come. For I had rather others committed trespasse in taking, then I treason in giving. And I am sure that both Armies are not on the right side; but one, with all their voluntary maintainers and abetters, must, without Gods infinite mercy, be guilty of the blood of all the men slayne on either side. I shall therefore, for my particular, beleeve and

follow

follow the rule of the Apostle, *to obey the King, for so is set over us by God*; rather then runne with the new opinions and contrary doctrine of our militant Evangelists, Dr *Taylor*, Dr *Downing*, Mr. *Marshall*, and *Sedgwick*, whose consciences start out of the way at a white Surplesse, but never boggle at garments *rowled in blood*. There are other things considerable with us Citizens also, as the returne of Sir *Faithfull Fortescue*, Leivetenant *Colonell wroghasse*, and my L. Essex favorite, Captain *Stringsbury*, unto the King; neare the danger and jealousie we are in, that even some of the great ones will follow, for these are but harbengers,) and rather then come empty handed to their King, will make a large peace offering.

Let's consider the event of Warre, wherein we can yet boast nothing but our successe at *Winchester*. But had we had the day at *Edgehill*, and totally roured the Cavaliers, would that have determined the warre? I feare rather have called in all the Monarches of Christendome to maintain Monarchy, and then were we ingulfed, like the low Countreyes, in perpetuall blood. How great then is our straight, for if we succeed we undoe our selves. If the King by victory, (or treachery of our Commanders) the labour's saved us then, for having refused his mercy, we must expect his justice.

I have now, Sir, unbosom'd my selfe to you my friend, let therefore my errors find a friendly opposite, rectifying my mistakes by your advice, which I shall take as Commands, returning you the thankefull acknowledgement of

Read and burne.

Your friend and servant.

Milkestreet London, 28.

Decembr. 1642.

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